

REMARKS

I. Introduction

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 13, 14, 17, 18, 22, 26, 27, 30, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. U.S. Patent 4,706,121 (hereinafter "Young") in view of Richards et al. U.S. Patent 5,179,654 (hereinafter "Richards"). Claims 48-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Palmer et al. U.S. Patent 6,320,588 (hereinafter "Palmer"). Claims 2, 6, 7, 15, 19, 20, 28, 32, 33, 41, 44, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Richards, and further in view of Palmer.

Applicants have amended claim 20 to correct the inadvertent deletion of the word "comprises" in the amendment made to claim 20 in the October 8, 2003 Preliminary Amendment.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. The Rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, and 39-47

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 13, 14, 17, 18, 22, 26, 27, 30, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of

Richards. Claims 2, 6, 7, 15, 19, 20, 28, 32, 33, 41, 44, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Richards, and further in view of Palmer. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as defined by independent claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 relates to providing help information that explains to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates. A user input is received and in response to the user input, the help information is provided. The help information that is provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input.

Young relates to a TV schedule system and process that is able to display help information to a user. As pointed out by the Examiner, when the user selects key PG 224 on keyboard 220, help information is displayed at the bottom of the screen. See col. 12, lines 36-43. However, as conceded by the Examiner, Young does not show that the help information provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input. The Examiner, therefore, relies on Richards to show this feature.

Richards relates to providing help to users of a data processing system. Richards addresses deficiencies in prior systems that failed "to provide easy location of alternative or

related help at the same level as the contextual help initially provided." Col. 1, lines 58-60. Richard attempts to improve upon prior systems by displaying help information and also providing the user with access to a help map. The help map provides alternative and related help information that the user may select. See col. 2, lines 49-56.

The Examiner contends it would have been obvious to incorporate the teachings of Richards into Young "to concurrently display help text on each selected tile or grid of the EPG data, and furthermore enable interaction with each selected tile[] or grid of the EPG data for additional information, help or instructions relating to the selected tile or grid of the EPG data." Office Action, page 3. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Richards teaches an improved way of presenting help information. In particular, Richards teaches providing a user with access to a help map along with the help information in order to allow a user to easily find alternative and related help information. Young, however, does not refer to providing alternative or related help information. As stated above, Young simply provides help information when the user selects key PG 224 and that help information does not depend on the state of the guide. Accordingly, there is no motivation to

incorporate Richards' help interface into Young's system because Young does not provide alternative or related help information.

Moreover, Richards fails to show or suggest providing alternative or related help information to users of a TV schedule system such as Young's. In addition, Richards fails to show or suggest providing help information that depends on the state of an electronic television program guide as specified by applicants' independent claims 1, 14, 27, and 40.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that independent claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 and dependent claims 2, 4-7, 9, 13, 15, 17-20, 22, 26, 28, 30-33, 35, 39, and 41-47 should be found allowable over Young and Richards. Therefore, the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, and 39-47 should be withdrawn.

### III. The Rejections of Claims 48-51

The Examiner rejects claims 48-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Palmer. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as defined by independent claims 48-51 relates to providing help information that explains to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates. The user is queried to identify a portion of the electronic television

program guide for which the user desires help information. Help information is displayed for the portion of the electronic television program guide identified by the user.

Palmer relates to "storing and retrieving synchronized audio/video 'filmclips' to and from a data file of a multimedia computer workstation." Col. 1, lines 47-49. The computer workstation includes video teleconferencing capabilities. When a user initiates a video teleconference, window 510 of FIG. 18 is displayed. Window 510 includes help pushbutton 522. When a user activates the help pushbutton, an information pop-up window 750 (FIG. 23) is displayed. Window 750 includes pushbuttons "labeled with a sub-topic for which help documentation is available." Col. 23, lines. The user may activate one of these pushbutton to gain access to a sub-help window, which allows a user to access help information.

The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to incorporate the teachings of Palmer into Young "to provide queries to the user to enable the user to access additional information with respect to the portions of the menu." Office Action, pages 9, 10, 12, and 13. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Young, as discussed above, simply provides help information when the user selects key PG 224. There is no mention in Young of providing additional help information.

Therefore, there is no motivation to incorporate the sub-topic pushbuttons of Palmer into Young because Young does not refer to having additional help information which may be accessed. Furthermore, Palmer fails to show or suggest providing additional or sub-topic help information to users of a TV schedule system such as Young's.

Moreover, Palmer fails to show or suggest (a) querying the user to identify a portion of an electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information and (b) displaying help information for the portion of the electronic television program guide identified by the user as specified by applicants' claims 48-51. Therefore, even if the teachings of Palmer were incorporated into Young, the combination would fail to result in applicants' claimed invention.

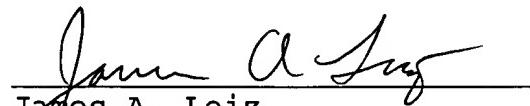
Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that independent claims 48-51 should be found allowable over Young and Palmer. Therefore, the rejection of claims 48-51 should be withdrawn.

#### IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, and 39-51 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for

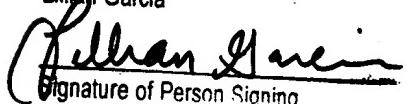
allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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